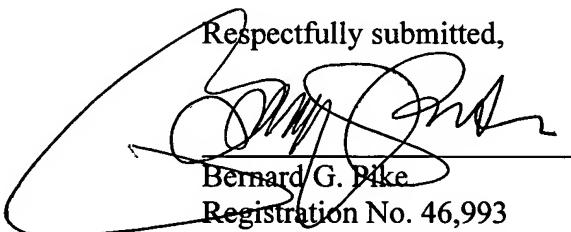


**Remarks**

The present Preliminary Amendment adds a paragraph to properly claim priority from copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/534,827 filed on March 23, 2000, sharing at least one common inventor and assigned to Carnegie Mellon University.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed and that all claims of the present application should be held patentable. Accordingly, passage of the claims to allowance at an early date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Bernard G. Pike  
Registration No. 46,993  
Attorney for Applicants

**Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP**  
Henry W. Oliver Building  
535 Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312  
Phone: (412) 355-8620  
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501